

Carbon Nanotube Field Emitter Array

Shown is an array of electron sources consisting of vertically aligned carbon nanotubes grown by chemical vapor deposition on the tops of microgated silicon posts. These NRL-invented nanotube "cold-cathode" devices have demonstrated very low voltage, high current density, and exceptional robustness, enabling many potential applications such as radio frequency amplifiers for communication, electric propulsion for microsatellites, and portable X-ray sources for field medical and security diagnostics.